RICE

Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication

JAPA 141 **First Year Japanese I**

(3 Credits)

Instructor:	Hiromi Takayama, Ph.D.	**Office Hours:**	MW 3:00 – 4:00 or by appointment
Office:	124 Rayzor Hall		
Phone:	713-348-2763	**E-mail:**	Hiromi.Takayama@rice.edu

CRN	Section	Class time	Classroom
11466	003	10:00am – 10:50am MWF	562 Sewall Hall
12215	004	2:00pm – 2:50pm MWF	207 Hanszen College

Required Books:

- Genki I: An integrated course in elementary Japanese with a CD, 2nd edition, by Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, Japan Times (ISBN 9784789014403)
- Genki I Workbook with a CD, 2nd edition, by Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, Japan Times (ISBN 9784789014410)

Other Materials Used:

- Authentic, contextualized language data prepared by the instructor
  - *Students analyze the authentic video- and audio-data of conversations between native speakers of Japanese in order to develop linguistic and meta-linguistic awareness.*
  - *All or some parts of the transcript will be given depending on the activity.*
- Language samples collected by the students
  - *Students record their own conversations with local Japanese people in order to analyze the recorded data. The instruction is given in class.*
- Additional materials on Canvas [http://www.rice.edu/canvas]
  - *Visit the course site on Canvas on a daily basis to find announcements, handouts, and other information.*

Course Description:

- JAPA 141 "First Year Japanese I" is a 3-credit course for students who has had no prior knowledge of the Japanese language. Students will learn basic linguistic knowledge including the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing (all of hiragana, all of

katakana, and 43 kanji characters). They will also acquire interactive skills from the beginning of the course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- exchange personal information (i.e. self-introduction, daily routine, familiar places, daily occurrences) and make or react to a suggestion / invitation accordingly, using the simplest type of polite form (i.e. long form).

- engage in a conversation in Japanese in socio-culturally and socio-linguistically appropriate manner through understanding similarities and differences between the home culture and various types of the Japanese culture.

Structure:

- Students are expected to come to each class prepared to fully participate in activities and practice.
- The use of English is allowed only in a limited, purposeful manner. When studying the grammar patterns, the students and the instructor may use English however, they use **only Japanese** during the practice time.

Grade Distribution

Class attendance and performance	15%
Assignments	15%
Conversation Practice	5%
Group Project	10%
Quizzes	15%
Oral Exam	10%
Exams (10% each)	30%

- I (incomplete) is only given to students whose work is satisfactory until the end of the semester but who can't complete the course due to illness or personal issues verified by the academic advisor.
- Students are also advised to keep all of the graded, returned assignments, quizzes, and exams. They become proof of grades as well as study guide for the following sections and exams.
- The overall and final grade will be assessed using the following scale:

A+	99-100%	B+	88-89%	C+	78-79%	D+	68-69%
A	94-98%	B	84-87%	C	74-77%	D	64-67%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%

Class Attendance and Performance:

- Students are expected to be active, autonomous learners. This means that students need to come to class prepared and participate in class. Participation contributes to the learning, and it is required to earn full points for the day. Simply attending class will lead to a low performance grade.

4 points	Well-prepared, excellent performance
3 points	Passing performance
2 points	Evidence of being prepared but not at a satisfactory level
1 point	Present, but not prepared; used an electronic device in the class
0 point	Absent

- Only medical absences, family emergency, and university-sponsored events such as athletes' scheduled games will be excused. It is each student's responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the scheduled event via e-mail. For emergency situations, students are expected to contact the instructor as soon as possible to inform about the situation.
- Failing to pay full attention to the class, such as sleeping, doing homework, studying other subjects, or chatting with classmates, will lead to a lower performance grade.
- Being late, leaving early, or leaving during the class lowers the performance grade.
- **Absolutely NO electronic device** in class. Using electronic device will automatically lower performance grade by 75% for the day.
- Only three missed class sessions are excused (excused absence) without penalty. Each additional absence causes the final grade to be reduced by 2%.
- In case of emergency, the student needs to contact the instructor as soon as she can.

Assignments:

- All assignments, unless specified, are due at the beginning of each class session. Late assignments are only accepted before or at the beginning of the next class session and will be deducted 10% of the total points possible. Assignments submitted later than the following class session will receive feedback but are not credited unless there are medical or school-related excuses for late submission. If students come to class late, the submission is considered late.
- Students are to do their own assignments on a piece of paper (not in the workbook) --- in neat handwriting and in pencil. No typed assignments are accepted unless specified.
- There will be assignments of interactional practice that the students need to record. Detailed instructions will be given during the semester.

Conversation Practice:

- Students are encouraged to attend as many of Language Table, O-cha-o-shimasenkai, and tutoring sessions with language consultants to practice communicating with others in Japanese. There will be six conversation practice assignments spread out in a cycle of

approximately two week period (see course schedule for specific dates). In each cycle, students are expected to visit one of the aforementioned conversation practice session at least once, and interact with others using Japanese for 15 minutes or more. To complete the assignment for credit, bring "kaiwa renshuu (conversation practice)" sheet (available on Canvas) to the session and receive a signature from a supervisor of the session (i.e. instructors or language consultants) upon finishing, and submit the "kaiwa renshuu" in class on its due date.

Group Project:

- Detailed instruction and guidelines will be announced in class.

Exam and Quizzes:

- Each exam is approximately 50 minutes in length while each quiz is approximately 5 minutes.
- Make-up exams are only given for medical emergencies.
- In case of school-related excused absences, it is the student's responsibility to talk with the instructor in advance to request an opportunity to take the exam prior to the scheduled date.
- There will be two oral exams. The first one will receive feedback from the instructor and receive grades for completion. The second one will be graded.
- The three lowest quiz scores are to be dropped at the end of the semester. There will be **NO** make-up quizzes. Missed quizzes (excused or not) are counted as the three lowest quizzes.

Language practice beyond classroom:

- Language Table – Students are encouraged to attend "Language Table" to speak with Japanese speakers in Japanese over lunch. The schedule will be given at the beginning of the semester.
- Language Consultants – Students should visit the language consultants on a regular basis to improve Japanese speaking skills.
- O-cha-o-shimasenkai – 30-minute tea time provides students with an opportunity to speak Japanese in a relaxed atmosphere. Details will be given at the beginning of the semester.

Class Policies

- NO food or gum in class unless there is permission from the instructor in advance. This is a language class, and students are often expected to speak. Drinks are allowed as long as they are in a bottle or there is a lid.
- Students are expected to put cell phones on a silent mode before class starts.
- Students are expected to communicate in Japanese with the fellow students and instructor as much as possible inside and outside the classroom. Writing an e-mail, for example, is

an excellent opportunity to experience and practice writing a formal message in a real-life setting.

- It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor, at least two weeks in advance, of any events including, but not limited to, religious holidays or athletic events, that may lead to absence or to a missed exam.

University Policies

Rice Honor Code:

- In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Disability Support Services:

- If a student has a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance s/he should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / 713-348-5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with the instructor to discuss your accommodation needs.

Syllabus Change Policy:

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

* If a student would like to request a recommendation letter, s/he needs to e-mail the instructor at least one month in advance to place a request.